Introduction
The Nexus between Human Rights and Development from International and Ethiopian Perspectives

Eva Brems, Christophe Van der Beken and Solomon Abay Yimer

1 General Overview of the Nexus

With its focus on human rights and development, this book aims to contribute to the academic debate on the linkage between human rights and development. At the international level, most notably at the level of the United Nations (UN), the prevailing view is that both concepts are strongly intertwined in that realizing human rights is both a tool and an objective of development. Pursuant to this view, development is no longer perceived in narrow terms as mere economic growth but encompasses all aspects of human development. The objectives of human rights law and development are, therefore, overlapping in the sense that the achievement of human development requires the realization of all human rights such as civil and political rights as well as economic, social, and cultural rights.1 This complies with the meaning given to development by the UN Declaration on the Right to Development, which defines the right to development as:

An inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized.2

Human rights should not only be realized by the development outcome; they are simultaneously part of the process to achieve this outcome.3 Human rights are more than mere political commitments, since they are enshrined in international legal documents that create binding obligations on duty-bearers and empower right-holders.4 International development goals such as reducing

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hunger, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, and achieving universal primary education, can be translated into human rights terms such as the right to food, the right to life, women's right to life and health, and the right to education, respectively. Although such development objectives, which are part of the Millennium Development Goals, are primarily related to the realization of economic and social rights, a human rights-based approach to development does not neglect the importance of civil and political rights. Traditional development approaches emphasize principles such as inclusion, participation, accountability, rule of law, and good governance in order to design appropriate development policies and to guarantee their effective implementation. A human rights-based approach allows providing practical substance to these somewhat opaque principles by translating them into concrete civil and political rights such as equality, non-discrimination, right to association, right of access to information, freedom of speech, voting rights, and access to justice. It is evident that inclusive development processes require a non-discriminatory approach where the voices of potentially vulnerable groups in society such as women, ethnic minorities, indigenous people, and persons with disabilities are effectively heard. These people could either participate directly or indirectly through their respective associations, hence the need for a protection of the freedom of association. Participation is a hollow concept without protection of freedom of speech and the right of access to information, whereas genuine popular accountability will be strengthened when state officials face the prospect of being voted out of office. The rule of law is a very encompassing concept, but in any case requires the right to bring a justiciable matter to an impartial and independent adjudicatory body. Good governance equally transcends a strict technocratic meaning and in fact requires the fulfillment of all the aforementioned civil and political rights.

A human rights-based approach to development holds a lot of promise in realizing the development objectives of states and non-state actors and in ensuring that both the process leading to development as well as the development outcomes are human rights sensitive. As such, this approach allows for development and human rights to mutually enforce each another.

A human rights-based approach to development may be increasingly popular at the level of international organizations such as the UN and international financial institutions such as the World Bank, but states facing development challenges are usually not that enthusiastic about it. This is due to the fact that human rights law imposes binding obligations upon them, violation of which

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